



## Crime and Disorder Committee

Item  
**7**

7 November 2022

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director Communities</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Sonia Carr</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Safer Colchester Partnership</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	All		

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Crime and Disorder Committee with the opportunity to review the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) during the period September 2021 – September 2022. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the SCP, work undertaken by the Partnership during September 2021 – September 2022 and plans for 2022/23.
- 1.2 The Annual Partnership Plan is attached as an Appendix detailing all activity linked to the SCP and key priorities.
- 1.3 At the meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio Holder, Colchester District Commander (North Local Policing Area) Essex Police and Senior representatives from other statutory and non-statutory partner agencies will be in attendance to provide further details to Committee members and to answer any questions that they may have.

### 2. Action Required

The Crime and Disorder Committee is invited to scrutinise the work of the SCP.

### 3. Reason for Scrutiny

The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 require that the Committee meet at least once a year to review the work and progress of the SCP in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their statutory crime and disorder reduction functions.

### 4. Background Information

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out statutory requirements for local agencies to work together to tackle crime in their local area. Partners involved in this work are known as 'Responsible Authorities'.
- 4.2 The SCP was set up to deliver this statutory duty and includes the following partners: (statutory) Colchester Borough Council (CBC), Essex Police, NHS SNEE (Suffolk and North East Essex) Integrated Care Board (ICB), The

Probation Service (TPS), Essex County Council (ECC), Essex Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and non-statutory partners include Colchester Borough Homes (CBH), University of Essex, Community 360 (C360), and Colchester Garrison.

- 4.3 The SCP forms part of One Colchester Strategic Board, which consists of Chief Officers representing local statutory partners and non-statutory partners and organisations. It aims to achieve sustainable solutions following the identification of local needs and priorities. It does this by delivering initiatives and engaging with local communities through two Operational groups; these being the Community Safety Delivery Board (CSDB) and the One Colchester Delivery Board. The CSDB is set up as a forum for the Safer Colchester partners to work together to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester and deliver the key priorities through an action plan.
- 4.4 There are many areas where the work of agencies overlaps, and it is more effective to work in partnership to address issues. Also, more effective data sharing between agencies enables partners to target resources to where they are needed most. The benefits of this established partnership working have been evidenced through multi-agency support to produce successful funding bids, partnership promotion and participation in community safety activity and joint communication initiatives.
- 4.5 The SCP has a statutory duty to carry out an annual 'Strategic Assessment of Crime'. This involves analysing data on the frequency, location, and types of crime (over the period 1st October – 30th September) to identify patterns and trends. This Assessment is used to develop the SCP Annual Partnership Plan (for the period 1 April - 31 March) which prioritises the key local issues and outlines actions to address them. The SCP then monitors this Annual Plan throughout the financial year, reviewing and refocusing activity as necessary to effectively tackle the issues.

## **5. Overall Police Summary**

- 5.1 The focus since July 2021 has been high harm, having seen an increase in violence since the end of Covid, across the board, and as such the focus has been on Domestic Abuse, Violence with Injury, Robbery, Residential Burglary, and Sexual Offences. Police confirm that they have made significant disruption to an Organised Crime Group distributing Class A drugs in Colchester, with over ten of their members now imprisoned.
- 5.2 On a rolling 12-month basis to the end of July 11.3% more crimes have been recorded than the previous year.

(Noting that the previous year figures include the COVID Lockdown periods)

- Violence with injury increased 23.7% (Total of 2059 offences) (Force increase of 16.8%)
- Robbery increased 10.2% (Total of 125 offences) (Force increase is 10.1%)

- Residential Burglary increased 15% (Total of 459 offences) (Force increase is 8.8%)
  - Business and Community burglary increased 64.7% (Total of 252 offences) (Force increase of 8.8%)
  - Domestic Abuse increase of 0.8% (Total of 3254 offences) (Force increase 5.2%)
- 5.3 Colchester has 97.1 crimes per 1000 people this ranks us 6/12 DPA (Population listed as 194,706) By comparison; Harlow 132.4 / Southend 115.9 / Basildon 108.8 / Tendring 97.7 / Thurrock 97.6

5.4 The Quarter 4 Public perception Survey Results for Colchester show the following:

(Percentage of people who strongly or tend to agree)

- Confidence in local Policing 73%
- Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community 56%
- Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB [Antisocial Behaviour] 56%
- Confidence in receiving a good service from Essex Police 76%
- Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job 78%
- Feel Informed about what the police are doing in the local area 58%
- Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in the last 12 months 16%

## 6. The Partnership Priorities

6.1 The partnership priorities are focussed on findings from the Strategic Assessment of Crime, they provide the focus for partner throughout the year, unless unforeseen circumstances require a shift in that focus. The current priorities are listed below and will be the focus of the presentation from partners.

## 7. Priority One - Tackling organised crime, gangs & county lines with an emphasis on Drug Trafficking

### 7.1 Introduction

The PFCC [Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner] and Chief Constable have made it clear that violence in any form is unacceptable. Drug trafficking is perpetrated by organised criminals who bring harm to others; they do this through the use of violence to enforce their territory, or through the exploitation of vulnerable people, either those who use drugs, or those influenced to work for them. Social media has seen the proliferation of “gang culture” which many young people see as a way to make money, without realising the dangerous world they are entering. The reach of the organisations impacts across the partnership, for example with looked after children or those suffering mental health issues being at risk.

County Lines is a term used to describe movement of drugs. In the last month Essex Police have arrested and processed 14 people linked to drug supply through County Lines in Colchester. Two dealer line phones have been recovered, closing the lines and we have seized cash of £11,000.00, 0.17g of crack cocaine, 0.23g of heroin. We have also seized a bottle of acid from a male stopped searched in the Greenstead area, and 2 large knives and two batons.

Across the year activities and results similar to this are delivered on a regular basis through the growth of a Police serious violence unit encompassing the multi-agency violence and vulnerability unit, this is a two pronged approach tackling the perpetrators who exploit vulnerable individuals, and providing support through diversion such as sport England.

#### 7.2 **The Safer Colchester Partnership will:**

- Develop an intelligence and awareness picture of this escalating criminality, especially focusing on Drug Trafficking
- Strive to provide appropriate safeguarding and support to those vulnerable to exploitation
- Assist in the disruption of drug-related activity and crime within the community
- Implement early intervention through education and awareness raising within the local community, to help build community resilience

7.3 **Overall SAC evidence base** - Violence against the person crimes, in particular Violence with injury, were scored as high-risk areas to people and both local and community issues. Trafficking of drugs saw an increase of over 31% and scored highly across all risks and vulnerability areas. This was backed up by data in terms of active nominals and county lines operating in Colchester. The data also showed a 29% increase in Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking referrals, with MSHT links to Organised Crime Groups

#### 7.4 **Priority One - What have we achieved so far**

##### 7.5 **Essex Police:**

- The Multi Agency Co-ordination Panel (MACP) continues to play a role in sharing data to disrupt criminals, together we have dismantled an organised crime group supplying cannabis edibles to young people
- Teams across Essex Police supported Colchester Officers to disrupt the major identified organised crime group through two operations. These resulted in the closure of licensed premises linked to the group, detention of seven members, and seizure of cash and drugs, the arrest charge and remand of the five principle, significant members, and seizure of cash and drugs. The Multi Agency Co-ordination Panel (MACP) continues to play a role in sharing data to disrupt criminals.
- Essex and Kent Serious Crime Directorate provide support through specialist teams providing overt and covert strategies. Colchester Community Policing Team (CPT) work with partners including Open Road

to provide support and engagement, divert from drug use, and prevent exploitation of vulnerable people. CPT develop intelligence and target those involved in the supply of drugs locally. This ranges from use of stop search through to warrant execution.

- Serious Violence Unit work with CPT to target County Lines, utilising tactics that ensure removal of the line from street dealers to the line holders, this approach has seen over 20 Lines, with direct links to Colchester, closed down in the last 12 months.
- Vulnerable people are identified through further work with schools, an example is a promising young footballer who is now in the Colchester United Youth Scheme.
- With National Support through Operation Aidant we have undertaken a number of Modern Slavery Human Trafficking operations throughout the year, the most recent being labour exploitation at car washes, resulting in identification of links to the aforementioned Organised Crime Group, the rescue of victims and referral to our specialist partners. The next operation is targeting potential sexual exploitation.

#### **7.6 Colchester Borough Council:**

- A new crucial crew programme was delivered in June/July 2022. Over 1,000 Year 6 pupils from 27 Colchester primary schools attended a live theatre production that raised awareness of grooming and criminal exploitation. Children participated in an interactive workshop exploring topics such as healthy relationships, grooming, shoplifting, knives and criminal responsibility. Where concern was raised based on the children's interaction/knowledge, this was highlighted to schoolteachers in attendance. One teacher commented that they were aware of issues at home and would escalate this within their school setting.

#### **7.7 Colchester Borough Homes**

- Worked with Essex Police to tackle drug activity within the Council's social housing stock. Used delegated powers to close seven properties due to drug related crimes. Used a managed moved process to support vulnerable tenants who have been cuckooed and used the Housing Act legislation to take back possession of four tenancies where drug activity continued.

#### **7.8 The Essex North Probation Service**

- Have seconded an officer into the Violence and Vulnerability Team for the past 18 months to ensure effective liaison with Police and Youth Offending colleagues.
- Through this partnership developed an analytical tool to help identify offenders at risk of causing serious violence through use of a weapon.
- Worked closely with Police to combine Probation dynamic clinical risk assessment alongside actuarial risk factors to inform which individuals would benefit from additional support to prevent offending behaviour.
- Seconded a team member to deliver one to one intervention to address the risks associated with weapons, county lines and urban street gangs

(Fearless Futures). They ensure that intensive supervision supports the one-to-one work completed with Fearless Futures.

- The East of England Probation service is working on a regional strategy to address County Lines and Urban street gangs. This work will look to understand the key areas of risk and diversionary activities.
- All Probation Practitioners are required to record accurately and flag when an offender is known to have affiliation to a gang. They will be professionally curious and ensure licence conditions are in place for those offenders released from custody to manage their risk in the community.

#### 7.9 **Essex Children and Families Service (ECFS)**

- Support young people experiencing high level child exploitation risk through MACE 1, multi-agency planning, bespoke interventions /disruption, and MACE 2 that provides multi-agency strategic oversight including training and development to support the wider community.
- Essex Youth Offending Service deliver the 'Lived Experiences' workforce development programme to capture the life experiences of 10 young people (including young people from Colchester) who either are/have been, supervised by the Youth Offending Service. Additionally, there are a series of 4 workshops to assist professionals covering key areas (Lets start at the beginning, Relationships, The Bigger Picture, Missed Opportunities).
- Children at Risk of Exploitation (CARE) has been funded through the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex and to support children and young adults who have been/are at risk of being, exploited. This is delivered through The Children's Society who work with children, young people and adults aged between 8-24 years old at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation.

#### 7.10 **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS)**

- Education Officers deliver assemblies and lessons to schools on Knife Crime and gang awareness.
- Joint project with Firstsite on art project linked to young riders
- On Demand Delivery rider intervention project - this sector is also those from lower socio-economic groups, may be choosing this work / mode of transport out of necessity rather than informed choice, and they are exposed to multiple risk and increased risk of RTC [Road Traffic Collision] due to the amount of miles travelled

### **8. Priority Two - Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Violent Crime in public, focusing on Hate Crime and possession of weapons**

#### 8.1 **Introduction**

We know from community feedback that anti-social behaviour has an impact on our communities. In some cases, the disruption to life is huge and people become fearful to step outside their own front door. Where public space violence also occurs the fear is increased, and we have seen the impact just

one incident in the town centre had - a one punch assault where the victim hit their head on a kerb and was hospitalised. Police tape and a road closure saw a multitude of social media comments about the Town Centre being totally unsafe, thus impacting the perception of safety for the wider community. As a diverse growing community, we know that hate crime impacts, and affects the confidence of more than the victim. As a priority it is the right thing to do. We work together to ensure, as Colchester grows, we are diverse, inclusive and strive for equality.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Use available resources and legislation to tackle ASB and public order offences
- Develop an intelligence and awareness picture to assist in the disruption of perpetrators of violent crime
- Bring reassurance to residents regarding their personal safety and assist in driving down crime rates for the borough to improve quality of life for the wider community
- Deliver interventions to tackle and reduce incidents of Hate Crime such as training and encouraging reporting
- Support activity to ensure the safety of those participating in the night-time economy, including disruption of knife crime and possession of offensive weapons

8.2 **Overall SAC evidence base** - ASB saw an increase of over 13% in reports on the previous year, with over 5,600 incidents. This scored highly in terms of risk to both people and property and was backed up by Council ASB data recording over 17,600 incidents across Environmental and Neighbourhood Teams. Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences saw a 10% increase and Hate Crime a significant 40% increase in reports on the previous year. It also scored highly in terms of a CSP approach being of benefit. Scoring high in all risk areas was possession of weapons offences and this was therefore included in the wording of the key priority.

8.3 **Priority Two - What have we achieved so far:**

8.4 **Essex Police**

- ASB has reduced by 53.7% with 2,756 incidents reported across the year. The Community Policing Team (CPT) and Town Centre Team (TCT) work closely with partners to prevent ASB and Violence. The CPT have identified and targeted key individuals who facilitate disorder, and use a range of powers to disrupt those individuals, prosecute, and close premises.
- The TCT focus on Town Centre areas, particularly the night-time economy. A partnership approach with licence holders, Council, Open Road, Street Pastors and Royal Military Police (RMP) provide a significant presence in our town centre to maximise coverage to keep those in the night-time economy safe.
- Working to tackle anti-social use of motor vehicles. Police enforcement often displaces the issue. Through dedicated roads policing units, visible

patrols and immediate disruption, review of CCTV and social media and issuance of postal enforcement, the combined enforcement and preventative work is coming to fruition. ECC have installed speed calming measures in one area, and consultation has begun on a Public Space Protection Order (led by Council).

- Hate Crime continues to be a focus with Colchester seeing an increase of 57 offences over the previous year. Those defined as Racially/Religiously Aggravated offences have increased by 15 to 276 offences for the 12 months. The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) engages with a range of communities to understand local concerns and issues, and Colchester continues to expand Hate Incident Reporting Centres to provide greater accessibility.
- In order to provide reassurance, ensure we are listening to the community and increase confidence Essex Police publish a regular newsletter, this has now changed to a weekly update. This provides information on activity police are undertaking and publishes information on engagement events to allow the community to feed in local concerns, this has contributed to an increase in survey result data in reply to the question “feel informed about what the police are doing in my local area” from 38% in Q4 20/21 to 58% in Q4 21/22. This is the highest of all Districts.

Partners have promoted the Hate Crime Ambassador training, with courses being delivered to Community 360 and 100 staff members at CBH and included in the mandatory training for taxi drivers through CBC.

#### 8.5 Colchester Borough Council:

- Town Centre Action Plan meetings (TCAP) and Colchester homeless action partnership work together to share, address and act on any concerns, to provide a safer town. Between January and June 2022, interactions with the public including verbal warnings, enforcements and arrests have taken place as a result of Neighbourhood patrols (932 hours) and Joint Neighbourhood/Police patrols (38 hours). Referrals have also been made to Op Luscombe (64) and Project Servator (14).

*Op Luscombe: Multi-agency support at "the Hub" in conjunction with Enforcement for those perceived to be aggressively begging. Op Luscombe, originally developed in the MET, works on a traffic light system with a positive action for those witnessed begging to attend "the Hub" and receive the relevant support. Project Servator: Aims to deter, detect, and disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism, while providing a reassuring presence for the public*

- The #SeeYouSafer campaign launched in December 2021 promoting key messages for people to keep themselves safe in the night time economy (NTE). This included a widespread social media campaign, [website](#) and a [YouTube video](#). The campaign video had over 2 million impressions and over 400,000 plays. A pop-up event in Colchester High Street engaged with members of the public. A Higher Education programme was



successful with content shared widely, direct engagement at events, posters and leaflets distributed: Colchester Institute - 8,000 students and 3,112 followers on Instagram. Colchester Sixth Form – 3,200 students and 1,544 followers on Instagram. University of Essex / Student Union - 13,179 students at University SU and 10k followers on Instagram. The campaign received excellent feedback. Further event at Essex University in October which will enable cascade of messaging to new students, and the opportunity to evaluate any impact from the previous event. Autumn 2022 higher education campaign for the new term to be discussed. Successful partnership with the Garrison, key messages shared widely. All partners support marketing messages through their own communication channels.

#### **8.6 The Essex North Probation Service**

- Continue to work with partners under the multi-agency public protection umbrella to disrupt perpetrators of violent crime. Prompt sharing of information and taking enforcement action, where individual is subject to probation results in return to court for breach of their order or prison if they breach their licence.
- Undertakes comprehensive assessments on all offenders sentenced to a community order or released on licence which help to identify individuals who, irrespective of their conviction, may be involved in violent crime, hate crime and possession of weapons. This information is used to identify interventions that will manage and reduce any risks posed by the individual, as well as change their behavior.

#### **8.7 Colchester Borough Homes**

- Launched Project Omnis in June 2022 (funded by Violence and Vulnerability Unit) a community café at Greenstead Community Centre to reduce hate crime around vulnerable children and adults, offering a safe place to report incidents and request support. The café sessions have 5 to 10 people in regular attendance and resulted in 6 referrals to partners. The individuals have received relevant support and signposting to other agencies and are now regular attendees at the sessions.
- Support by partners' communication channels continue to raise awareness and engage communities as seen in ASB Awareness week and CBH's Make a Difference Days.
- Developed an ASB forum including all housing providers and Police to focus on ASB hotspots, trends, and nominals of interest.
- The use of mobile CCTV cameras funded by the Partnership has helped to evidence ASB to initiate enforcement action, further deter ASB incidents and make communities feel safer. Community meetings involving CBH and Essex Police have been held to offer reassurance and co-ordinate a structured response between all agencies.
- Project Morpheus was launched to divert behaviours, educate, and prevent incidents of ASB. This 12-month project engages 10–17-year-olds in many varying activities including Army days to build trust and discipline, Fire Break sessions which teach consequences and Community Days that ensure a sense of belonging and pride in their communities.

- Developed materials including 'pocket guides to support' and 'How to be a good neighbour guide' to offer customers valuable information and support.
- Opened and investigated 400 cases of ASB (Just CBH Tenants)
- Using Delegated Powers under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act, CBH issued 82 CPW's/CPN's to deter and change behaviours likely to cause ASB
- Attended 21 court hearings relating to ASB and closed 11 Properties
- Served 14 Notices Seeking Possessions
- Carried out 4 evictions under Housing Law (this is without people surrendering their tenancy)
- Using Housing Law, we have supported Vulnerable Tenants with a Management Move to safeguard them
- Working with Essex Police, we have over 100 professionals trained as Hate Crime Ambassadors in order to promote reporting, identify incidents and educate around its impacts

#### **8.8 The Youth Offending Service**

- Caseloads are increasing in the North of the County. Youth court has largely caught up post COVID. All victims of youth crime from Court Orders to Out of Court Disposals are contacted by the Restorative Justice worker in the YOS and offered Restorative Justice intervention. The Restorative Justice worker will also work with young people in relation to victim awareness, including resources looking at the impact of drugs/weapons offences.

#### **8.9 NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB - formally CCG)**

- As a result of the pandemic, children and young people have increased levels of anxiety which puts them at risk for being drawn into criminal activity including ASB and violent crime. Barnardo's LINK Families Together Service has been commissioned locally. This helps support young people experiencing mental health problems and their families, focusing on therapeutic support. In NE Essex this service has been successfully delivering prevention support avoiding the need for escalation into cost intensive services and avoiding the risk of family breakdown. From the data provided, 86% strongly agreed that service has led to a positive change in their family's situation.
- Work in partnership with Family Solutions, The Children's Society, Teen Talk and Y.E.S to support children, young people, and families across North East Essex. The Mental Health School Teams (delivered by Mid & North Essex Mind) provide early support for emotional health and wellbeing needs in schools and colleges.
- Health Teams participate in hate crime training to raise awareness, and support community development via cultural awareness work with Community 360.

#### **8.10 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS)**

- Firestoppers - Confidential referral scheme for the public to report information on deliberate fires
- Prevention Analyst appointed to work on improving the targeted approach to reducing deliberate fires and the impact of this ASB

## 9. **Priority Three - Identifying & supporting the victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences, focusing on reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

### 9.1 **Introduction**

Violence against women and girls is a national issue and across Colchester, historically, we have seen the impact of sexual offences and Domestic Abuse. Partnership working is key to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report, and that we invest in prevention to ensure Colchester is a safe place for all.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Increase understanding and awareness to the public and front-line practitioners to reduce Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, Sexual Offences and VAWG
- Encourage all affected by these crimes to engage with relevant agencies to seek help and support, acknowledging men and minority groups
- Consider early intervention activity and work with potential and known perpetrators

9.2 **Overall SAC evidence base** - Domestic Abuse crimes remained high with over 3,200 reports and increases in both High and Standard Risk Domestic Abuse categories. They were also scored highly in terms of risk of harm to vulnerable people, psychological and physical harm categories, and local and community priorities. Additionally, all Sexual Offence crimes that includes Rape saw a significant increase in reports, over 24% on the previous year. Stalking and harassment also saw an increase of 13%. Along with reducing Violence against Women and Girls being one of the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

### 9.3 **Priority Three - What have we achieved so far:**

#### 9.4 **Essex Police:**

- Essex Police's newly established Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams (DAPST) work to prevent repeat behaviour with dedicated officers providing support to the most vulnerable victims. Offenders are supported to reflect/change their behaviour. In the last 10 months, after DAPST engagement, 40% of the victims who were referred in for withdrawing support have re-engaged to support a prosecution. DAPST currently directly manage 26 High Threat Offenders of which 9 have been imprisoned in the last three months when they failed to engage in change programmes

- Further expansion of Domestic Abuse Investigation Teams has seen an increase in positive outcomes for victims of medium and high risk domestic abuse incidents with solved rates of 17.1% and 23.9% respectively across the Force
- DAIT teams are able to provide specialist support to victims, through referral to partners such as Next Chapter.
- Local Policing Teams attend all Domestic Incidents as a priority or emergency response ensuring early attendance to safeguard victims, unless a victim wants a specific appointment.
- CPT work with partners including Next Chapter to provide a range of prevent options from drop in coffee mornings at the University, through schools where pupils receive education on safe relationships and consent (All University students receive inputs as part of their induction to University life)

#### 9.5 **Colchester Borough Council**

- Participated in Operation Henderson, a multi-agency project to identify child sexual exploitation on transport networks. This runs twice a year with the last event held on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The project includes digital reach (24955 social media reach), face to face engagements (total 889 including 495 young people passengers), training materials issued widely including taxi drivers, bus drivers and train staff. Feedback was gathered from all activity and learning points noted for future events including the need for focused training for bus drivers and extending locations to places young people spend time.
- Funded by the CCG Community Safety Fund, Colchester CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse) received £20,000 to support their Integrated Support Project, to deliver a range of additional support services aimed at victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse who have a high level of immediate need and/or face multiple disadvantages, including due to mental ill-health. The project aims to support 100+ victims and survivors each year, anticipating 35 from Colchester. From April 2022 to date, the project has so far supported 77, with 31 of those from Colchester.

#### 9.6 **Colchester Borough Homes:**

- Named officers build links with CBH tenants to increase confidence in domestic abuse reporting and for management of the sanctuary scheme. Front-line officers attend domestic abuse awareness training, and a process has been introduced for operatives to flag concerns when visiting tenants' homes. Additionally front-line officers have lone worker training and are issued with emergency response device when they are lone working.

#### 9.7 **Essex Children and Families Services (ECFS)**

- Continued to develop Children's Services, as well as the wider partnerships understanding of Child Exploitation – 'Risk in the Community' highlights how children and young people can experience community-

based risk outside of the family home. A successful pilot by ECFS in the South of the County was designed to offer an alternative child protection pathway for children experiencing exploitation. This was successful and will now be rolled out across the county. New roles and processes will provide an alternative pathway to traditional child protection processes which focus on interfamilial risk. Additionally, to support young people 18yrs+ (previously subject of child protection/child in need), the development of a Transitional Safeguarding Protocol, will aid their transition into adulthood with support from Adult Services.

- Moving forward Children Services, supported by the wider partnership will be offering additional support to children, young people and their families who are at risk of exploitation through Risk in the Community Support Officers. At an Essex level they conducted an Honour Based Case Audit that resulted in updates to guidance currently out for consultation. Essex will also recruit a Domestic and Cultural Abuse Practitioner to support the wider service to recognise and respond to all forms of domestic abuse.

9.8 **Next Chapter** - The commissioned provider for domestic abuse services in North Essex including Colchester.

The total number of referrals for the Colchester area is detailed in the table below

Period	Q1 – 21/22	Q2 - 21/22	Q3 – 21/22	Q4 – 21/22	Q1 – 22/23
No of Referrals	143	155	181	189	173
Ave monthly	48	52	60	63	58

- Whilst the monthly profile is relatively spiky, particularly during the height of the pandemic – there is a clear upward trend in relation to referral numbers. The average monthly referrals into the organisation have risen from 164 per month in 2019/21 to 258 per month in the first quarter of this year – equating to a 58% rise in referrals compared to pre-covid levels. This trend is also reflected in the number of referrals from victims originating in the Colchester borough as can be seen in the table above.
- The Together we Can project has been extended until March 2023 with £494,000 received from ECC. Led by CBC, this project has supported Next Chapter to offer specialist drug and alcohol support through recruitment of a specialist support worker in their Recovery Refuge to support the increasing number of referrals up to 31 per month (based on 2021-22 reports), enabling the continued employment of Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioners to provide support to families to remain safely in their own home and work alongside housing providers to find solutions when this is not possible, supporting over 1300 clients through community outreach service in 2021-22. Specialist support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse through the continued employment of Children’s Support Workers, to develop resilience working alongside mothers to provide a family-based approach and include partnership work with schools.

- The children and young people’s service (CYP) has now been running for over 12 months and has established bespoke programmes which support both parents, children, and young people and with a whole family approach to enable the family to recover and move forward from the abuse they have experienced. The parenting support aims to provide the non-abusing parent with an understanding of how the domestic abuse has impacted their children and tools for them to support their children in their recovery.
- As a result of the investment to create a community based CYP service, Next Chapter have secured additional funding (until March 2025) through Children In Need and the National Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) fund to add 3 Young People Violence Advisors to the team – they will work with young people 14-19yrs who are experiencing serious harm from intimate relationships or domestic abuse in their family setting.

### Referrals into CYP Service for Colchester & Maldon

Colchester & Maldon	Q1 21-22	Q2 21-22	Q3 21-22	Q4 21-22	Total 21-22
Early Intervention - parents benefitting	20	14	20	18	72
Early Intervention - children benefitting (incl Healthy Relationship workshops)	378	350	200	500	1428
One-to-one work - parents benefitting	12	60	10	30	112
One-to-one work - children benefitting	50	144	90	70	354
Recovery Groups - parents benefitting	20	14	15	25	74
Recovery Groups - children benefitting	128	0	25	25	178

Colchester & Maldon	Q1 22-23
Early Intervention - parents benefitting	49
Early Intervention - children benefitting (incl Healthy Relationship workshops)	300
One-to-one work - parents benefitting	30
One-to-one work - children benefitting	120
Recovery Groups - parents benefitting	30
Recovery Groups - children benefitting	45

- Early intervention - Equipping young people through work in local schools with the right tools and resilience to be able to sustain their own healthy relationships and be able to recognise and deal with the signs of an unhealthy, or “toxic”, relationship to keep themselves physically and emotionally safe. Professionals training enables the professionals’ supporting children and young people in school to understand domestic abuse, healthy relationships, and the impact of domestic abuse on the whole family. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and Next Chapter have a waiting list of schools for early intervention workshops/professionals training.

- To meet the requirements under the new Domestic Abuse Act, CBC have worked with Next Chapter to identify gaps in provision. Using funding to support this Act, we have enabled Next Chapter to recruit a Male Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) to support men/young men who are experiencing domestic abuse, and a dedicated CYP Officer for Colchester who will offer 1:1 support for children and young people and their non-abusing parent, who are experiencing domestic abuse.

#### 9.9 **NHS Integrated Care Board**

- Actively increased awareness and understanding to the public and their own practitioners to reduce Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, Sexual Offences and VAWG (violence against women and girls), through participation in safeguarding training. The SHELLS (Shelter & Health EnListing Local Support) SOS bus work with partners to support safe places for those seeking help both in the NTE and for those seeking support to report/get out of a controlling or abusive situation.

#### 9.10 **The Essex North Probation Service**

- Complete an assessment on all offenders to establish if they are a perpetrator and/or victim of domestic abuse and/or sexual offending. Work with partners to reduce the risks posed by perpetrators and protect victims, be that through sharing prompt information, delivering suitable interventions and/or by imposing licence conditions such as curfews, electronic monitoring, and polygraph testing to check compliance with licence conditions.
- Have high levels of completion rates for their mandatory e-learning training: Safeguarding Children - 92.9%, Safeguarding Adults – 90.3%, Domestic Abuse – 90.9%, Prevent – 84.4%

#### 9.11 **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS)**

- Continue to conduct Home Fire Safety visits and Safe and Well visits, focused by a combination of local intelligence and a MOSAIC computer programme for victims. Safe and Well Visits for victims of domestic abuse, victims of/people at risk of arson, and other vulnerable members of the community.
- Targeted intervention in the Greenstead area of Colchester, one of the top three wards in Colchester for fire related incidents. This activity continues with planned uplift in the number of visits to be carried out.
- All stations hold an open day each year with safety, fire, RTC, and water as a focus – all to be completed before October.
- Fire Break Programme specifically tailored to deliver sessions on VAWG.

For further detail on the above achievements and outcomes please refer to Appendix A (Annual Partnership Plan).

### 10. **Future Plans for the Partnership's work (September 2022- March 2023):**

- The Key Priorities for the period including September 2022 – March 2023 are as detailed in 5.1.

- The Annual Partnership Plan for 2022-23 will continue to be reviewed and updated until the end of March 2023.
- The process to identify the Key Priorities for 2023-24 will be adapted. Consultation with wider SCP partners will be sought for their input into setting the key priorities.

**11. Colchester Borough Council:**

- Two funding bids to the Home Office Safer Streets Round 4 (Greenstead and Town Centre) were submitted and successful in achieving over £500,000. The success of both bids will enable the delivery of a range of environmental and community-based projects to be delivered.
- We are also working with partners to implement an Anti-Slavery Partnership / forum in 2022-23, with the aim to further raise awareness and support those vulnerable members of our community.
- Consultation has begun to introduce a new Public Space Protection Order for Vehicular Nuisance across the whole borough (to tackle vehicle related noise, speeding, obstruction, and congregation.) If approved, implemented in September
- Launch of Sports and Mentoring Programme in September 2022, to engage with young people who are known and/or supported by the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and other agencies to reduce/prevent youth criminality and violence.
- Launch of Jumpstart Project in September 2022, to support vulnerable young people to remain offending free and support them into sustained education, training, or employment.
- CBC, CBH and Essex Police are in the process of planning how to support the White Ribbon Campaign in November 2022, by linking in with Leisure World and Colchester United to focus on the 'positive masculinity' messaging through sporting venues/clubs.

**12. Colchester Borough Homes:**

- Using funding from ECC to support the introduction of the new Domestic Abuse Act that became law from 30 April 2021, recruitment has commenced for a Domestic Abuse Project Officer. This role will help CBH achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation and produce a Domestic Abuse policy for CBH and CBC.
- The Box Smart project will commence in September 2022 for young people to divert their behaviour and channel their energies into a sport activity.

**13. Next Chapter:**

- A new project confirmed in partnership with Essex Police funded through the Ministry of Justice National Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Fund, with additional funding contributions from Essex Police. The project is of national importance with Next Chapter working alongside Essex Police DAPST to target the perpetrators that represent the highest risk in our community. Next Chapter will work alongside the DAPST team to support all the victims, enabling the DAPST team to focus on



managing and tackling the dangerous criminal behaviour. If successful, this project could offer learning that will be used nationally.

- Next Chapter plan to use volunteer mentors through their DART Project to assist clients who are moving out of refuge, temporary accommodation or resettling following a housing move and coming to the end of their specialist DA support. This will provide clients with continuing, but lighter touch emotional and practical support during the period of transition. This has recently commenced, and early feedback has been very positive.
- Next Chapter Recovery Programme will start in September 2022. The Rise Programme combines group work, online sessions and clients using a bespoke journal to capture their journey to recovery.

#### 14. The Essex North Probation Service

- Essex North Probation Service received an overall rating of inadequate following an inspection in May 2022: <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/inspections/essex-north-pdu/> They have published an improvement action plan and have started the process of addressing the areas of concern and will continue to work with partners to reduce reoffending and protect victims. [East of England joint action plan - Essex North and Northamptonshire - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

#### 15. Funding from Partners

- The NHS SNEE Integrated Care Board (ICB) have supported the partnership with funds to support projects which deliver our partnership goals. As an active partner they have allocated £43k non recurrently. These funds can be used to support residents at risk of:
  - Domestic and sexual violence
  - Knife crime
  - Risk taking habits including drug usage and alcohol dependence
  - The safety of the night - time economy
  - Modern slaveryThis has been used to fund the CARA Integrated Support Project and match-fund the Jumpstart Project. The remaining funds are currently unallocated.
- Together we Can – 2021-22 - £376,000 / 2022-23 - £494,000
- Essex County Council New Duties Funding 2021-22 £32,610 being used to recruit a Domestic Abuse Project Officer
- MHCLG New Burdens 2021-22 - £33,646 awarded to Colchester Borough Council used by Next Chapter to recruit Male IDVA
- DLUHC New Burdens 2022-23 - £33,674 used by Next Chapter to recruit CYP Officer
- Home Office Safer Streets Round 4 - £264,000 Greenstead / £283,000 Town Centre
- Violence and Vulnerability Unit- 2021-22 £22,000 – Omnis Project and Sports and Mentoring Project 2022-23 - £5,513 match fund the Jumpstart project

**16. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)**

- The PFCC is invited to attend Crime and Disorder Committee meetings.
- A crime and disorder reduction grant of £22,511 was awarded by the PFCC to support the CSP in 2022/23
- PFCC for Essex's Community Development Fund enables voluntary and community safety groups from across Essex to apply for funding. This is to help prevent and tackle crime and ASB in Essex and support vulnerable people. The partnership has supported the promotion of this fund through their networks and endorsed partner applications to the fund.
- The PFCC through the Violence and Vulnerability Unit have funded several projects in the last year

**17. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

A key aim of the CSP is to protect vulnerable people. Many of the workstreams include supporting people with protected characteristics and dealing with the impacts of inequalities.

**18. Strategic Plan References**

This work contributes to the Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Under 'Creating safe, healthy, and active communities', the priority to 'Provide opportunities for young people', includes key goals to tackle crime issues and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Specifically:

- Provide positive opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interests them, keeps them safe, makes them happy and supports improved mental wellbeing
- Support the creation of strong, safe, and friendly communities that care about each other
- Work with Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex Youth Service, and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and tackle serious crime
- Work alongside our partners to improve cleanliness and community safety in the town centre

**19. Consultation**

- The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2021-22 was completed in January 2022 and has been used to identify the Key Priorities for the SCP for 2022-23.
- The Fear of Crime Survey was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 for 4 weeks to Understand residents' feelings around public safety and their experience of crime and anti-social behaviour. The results from this survey will help inform future priorities and highlight opportunities to tackle public safety issues.

**20. Publicity Considerations**

All publicity aims to achieve a positive reflection of the work of the SCP. There is a dedicated website, providing information and advice for residents and members of the public – [www.safercolchester.co.uk](http://www.safercolchester.co.uk)

**21. Financial implications**

It is expected that funding for the partnership's work will continue to be reduced. Therefore, the partnership will consider the financial sustainability of any project work it undertakes.

**22. Community Safety Implications**

The Community Safety implications are the subject of this report.

**23. Health and Safety Implications**

There are no specific Health and Safety Implications.

**24. Risk Management Implications**

There are no specific risk implications.

**ACRONYMS:**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
APP	Annual Partnership Plan
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CARA	Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
CPN	Community Protection Notice
CPW	Community Protection Warning
CS	Community Safety
CSDB	Community Safety Delivery Board
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYP	Children and Young People
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
ECC	Essex County Council
ECFRS	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NTE	Night-Time Economy
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
RTC	Road Traffic Collision
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership
SNEE	Suffolk and North East Essex
TPS	The Probation Service

**Appendices:**

- Appendix A                      SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2022-2023